CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) A method for reducing ABENDs in a data processing system when a job encounters an end of a current storage volume, said method comprising:

(a) in response to said encounter, selecting a new storage volume from a first plurality of storage volumes that constitute a first storage group;

(b) if step (a) is unsuccessful, selecting another new storage volume from a second plurality of storage volumes that constitute a second storage group; and

linking said second group as an extend-to-new volume group for end of volume encounters of said first plurality of storage volumes of said first group.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said extend-to-new volume group is one of a plurality of extend-to-new volume groups, and wherein step (b) is capable of selecting said new storage volume from one or more of said plurality of extend-to-new volume groups.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said plurality of extend-to-new

volume groups is available to step (b) according to a priority.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A computer that reduces ABENDs when a job encounters an end of a current storage volume, said computer comprising:

first means responsive to said encounter for selecting a new storage volume from a first plurality of storage volumes that constitute a first storage group;

second means, operable if none of the other storage volumes of said first group are available for selection by said first means, for selecting said new storage volume from a second plurality of storage volumes that constitute a second storage group; and

further means for linking said second group as an extend-to-new volume group for end of volume encounters of said first plurality of storage volumes of said first group.

13. (previously presented) The computer of claim 12, wherein said extend-to-new volume group is one of a plurality of extend-to-new volume groups, and wherein said second means is capable of selecting said new storage volume from one or more of said plurality of extend-to-new volume groups.

14. (previously presented) The computer of claim 13, wherein said plurality of extend-to-new volume groups is available to said second means according to a priority

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) A computer program embodied on a computer readable memory media for causing a computer to reduce ABENDs when a job encounters an end of a current storage volume, said computer program executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

first means for controlling said computer to perform a first operation in response to said encounter of selecting a new storage volume from a first plurality of storage volumes that constitute a first storage group;

second means for controlling said computer to perform a second operation, if said first operation is unsuccessful, of selecting another new storage volume from a second plurality of storage volumes that constitute a second storage group; and

further means for controlling said computer to perform a ~~fifth~~ further operation of linking said second group as an extend-to-new volume group for end of volume encounters of said first plurality of storage volumes of said first group.

20. (previously presented) The memory media of claim 19, wherein said extend-to-new

volume group is one of a plurality of extend-to-new volume groups, and wherein said second operation is capable of selecting said new storage volume from one or more of said plurality of extend-to-new volume groups.

21. (previously presented) The memory media of claim 19, wherein said plurality of extend-to-new volume groups is available to said second operation according to a priority.